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529 for playgrounds whenever through building demolition or some 741 other chance an area might be temporarily cleared.

The financing of children's institutions in a time of rapidly 262 rising costs proved difficult. Some were stimulated at times to 741 make efforts to improve the diet. "An egg a child a week," "some oil each day" have been aims which in some instances have been met, only to find that the cost of eggs has doubled, and that of oil trebled, so that the former ration again became the rule. There was felt to be a need for the organisation in Shanghai of a Children's Community Chest, when the citizens would be challenged to give largely and generously to its children, and all organisations caring for children might benefit. Leadership in the community to better the situation of its children was not lacking, as the extensive services for homeless children show.

736 THE WORSENING OF the economic situation in the city following 633 the outbreak of Pacific hostilities was followed, inevitably, by the 735 abandonment of many children on the streets by those unable to 748 care for them. Institutions which down through the years had been able to care for all children whom the police had taken in, found themselves unable to take more. Their financial situation with a steeply rising cost of living and the difficulty of obtaining essential commodities in sufficient quantities precluded the enlargement of their responsibilities. The Division was therefore faced with the task of finding temporary care for the abandoned children and of evolving a general plan to deal with the issue. A camp which had been established in 1940 by the Salvation Army with the assistance of the Council to try to rehabilitate street beggars was used as the temporary place of shelter, and a programme of home finding with a staff of fifteen social workers was embarked upon.

"Home finding" had two aspects. It sought to trace the natural homes or the relatives of the abandoned children. By every conceivable device social workers tried to obtain a clue from them as to their former life. If a child had been lost, the reunion between the child and the parents if the latter could be traced was often a touching one. If the child had been abandoned, effort was made to solve the family problem in some other way, for at all costs that complete break with its own family must be avoided which must otherwise mean a lifetime of standing alone. It was not easy

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to find employment as a means of assisting the family, but a friend or relative could frequently be found who, if challenged to do so by a skilled social worker, was ready to help out. There were no public funds to draw upon as is normal family casework in western countries; but there was being developed family case work on the China pattern, an attempt to use the close family bonds between relatives to induce help of the unfortunate. This kind of friendly help of course goes on day after day without stimulus from without; the difference was that the Division tried to harness it for the help of children in the emergency. The second phase of home finding sought to apply more widely the experimental beginnings in adoption approved by the authorities, the plan referred to earlier in this chapter. With more social workers on the task and with a gradually growing sense of responsibility on the part of the community for its children, as many as fourteen applications by adoptive parents were made on one day in June 1942 to adopt children.

This much more extensive programme than formerly attempted —a programme induced only by the emergency which in eight months left hundreds of children for whom adjustment had to be found in the hands of police—proved the value of early experimental beginnings. It cannot of course be claimed that even this enlarged staff would be able to handle the situation. Hundreds of children would continue to be destitute and begging, hundreds dying on the streets.

THE REMARKABLE WORK which has been done by the Chinese Government and voluntary organisations in caring for the thousands of children deprived of parental care during large-scale hostilities in China from 1937 to the present time has certainly within it the germ of an adequate child care programme in the future. It is work which has been carried on through immense difficulties of finance in a period of inflation. In Free China, as in Shanghai, there is growing a recognition of the necessity for adequately trained social workers in child care. Many students prevented from returning to China by world hostilities and for the time being remaining in the United States and elsewhere are using the time to prepare themselves as specialists in this field. In West China a special course in training for child care work has been organised

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736 748 874 to commence at Ginling College in Chengtu in 1943, a co-operative effort of several educational institutions. Plans for the training of workers at present employed in children's institutions, whose initial educational standards usually are at a level such that a university course will not be possible for them, are in process of being worked out. In Shanghai special summer schools for these employed workers, men and women who have given devotedly of themselves to the children under their care, have proved useful and stimulating. From the great catastrophe which has befallen China and its children may well arise administrative and voluntary efforts which will mean a richer life for them.